

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1106

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to encourage counties and municipalities in Tennessee to offer health insurance to their full time employees, to pay a sufficient portion of the monthly premium to enable all qualified employees to afford coverage, and to consider utilization of increases in state shared taxes to support this effort.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has sponsored a health insurance plan for local governments since 1990; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the Local Government Plan is to maximize value to public sector employers and their employees, minimize administrative cost and offer participants choice in plan selection; and

WHEREAS, thirty six counties and eighty one municipalities currently participate in the Local Government Plan which provides coverage to 14,155 employees and their family members – over 19,800 lives in all; and

WHEREAS, providing access to health insurance for employees and their families fosters the timely use of physician and hospital services and ensures access to modern pharmaceuticals; and

WHEREAS, access to health insurance provides a sense of financial security to employees and their families; and

WHEREAS, the provision of employer sponsored health insurance to public sector employees enhances the ability of local governments to recruit and retain a qualified, competent and dedicated workforce; and

WHEREAS, absenteeism is a serious consideration for all public sector employers which health insurance can reduce; and

WHEREAS, medical expenses not paid by the patient are eventually paid by the taxpayers or by patients who utilize providers of uncompensated care; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly encourages counties and municipalities in Tennessee to offer health insurance to their full time employees, to pay a sufficient portion of the monthly premium to enable all qualified employees to afford coverage and to consider utilization of increases in state shared taxes to support this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the president of the Tennessee Municipal League and to the president of the Tennessee County Services Association.